Students' Association
Film and Television Institute of India,
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PRESS RELEASE

FTII students' strike against the ad hoc appointments made in FTII society has entered its 8th day today as protests continue to happen in solidarity of our cause in Thrissur and Bangalore.

In solidarity with the students of Government Law College Thrissur organized the screening of 'Ram Ke Nam'. The screening was interrupted by ABVP activists.

Another protest meet is held at Kerala Sahitya Academy, Thrissur in Solidarity of FTII Strike from 4:30 p.m. onwards. Eminent film personalities like Rajeev Ravi, KM Kamal, Sanju surendran, KP Sasi, I Shanmughdas and Sanjeevan Anthikad attended the protest meet.

Similar protest meet also took place in Bangalore by FTII Alumni as well.

Meanwhile at the Epicenter of the protest, the FTII Campus discussions are on as we prepare the charter of our concerns. A letter has been sent to the Ministry stating that we are ready to meet.

Over 50 FTII Alumni came to FTII to stand in Solidarity with FTII students yesterday (18th June 215). The Alumni and students discussed at future course of action in the wake of ministry's response to our earlier letter. It was decided that we would seek an appointment from the ministry in order to present our charter of demands. The demand of granting FTII a status of Centre of Excellence may be one of them. The strike will continue till then. In solidarity with our cause, protests were also held in Kochi & Hyderabad.

Background:

The students at FTII entered an indefinite strike on 12th June, in a resolve to protect institutional autonomy in the light of certain appointments made for the FTII Society. The appointment of Mr Chauhan as the Chairman, a person of inadequate credentials over-riding eminent professionals like Gulzar and Jahnu Barua, and other appointments made in the Governing council are questionable. Their political affiliations and a certain slant in their body of work seem anomalous to the nature of the Institute and puts a question on the process of appointment itself.

It is no secret that such irrational and high-handed appointments across cultural think-tanks have been taking place since the present government has come to power. Examples abound from such appointments made at IITB, IIM, NFDC, CBFC, MCRC in the recent past, and now FTII. The

appointment of the Chairman and the other four members makes us apprehensive of vested interests interfering in cultural spaces.

We have been receiving consistent support from the likes of Adoor Gopalkrishnan, Girish Kasavaralli, Anand Patwardhan, Sriram Raghavan, Rakesh Sharma, Ajitha Suchitraveera, Hansal Mehta and many more standing by us. Student bodies such as SRFTII, AISA, JNSU, TISS, Jadhavpur University, NSD and several others have joined hands with us, some even holding marches and shutdowns for our cause.

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